

Effective Response

When a client with mental illness has been arrested

A Guide for Case Managers in Tennessee

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Need to find mental health services?

For a directory of mental health services in Tennessee:
<http://www.state.tn.us/mental/reslinks.html>

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Introduction

Police, sheriffs, courts and jails are established to guard public safety and maintain justice. They are not set up to provide care to people with mental illness. Case managers may think that a client who is in jail is safe, fed and housed, but people with mental illness in jail receive only the most basic services, and are in an environment that is not conducive to recovery.

Best practices indicate that case managers should maintain continuity of care with the client through the criminal justice process, with the goal of diverting the client from the criminal justice system to the mental health system at the earliest opportunity. While the client is in the criminal justice settings, continuity of care involves communicating with the client, with law enforcement and correctional staff to establish and maintain effective treatment during incarceration. Continuity of care also involves monitoring release dates to connect the client with appropriate community resources as soon as possible upon release.

Criminal justice systems differ from one county to the next. Case managers should learn about the system in the local county and should develop a contact at the jail and the public defender's office. If there is no contact at the jail, ask for the shift commander and let that person know the person is a mental health client of your agency. If your agency develops a rapport with law enforcement you may receive timely notification to be able to divert clients into the mental health system instead of arrest.

This document will guide you through the criminal justice process in Tennessee. There are suggestions for case managers in each "*Effective Response*" section. This document does not supercede any agency policies and procedures regarding services to clients who are arrested and incarcerated.

Crisis Prevention

The best way to deal with the criminal justice system is not to get involved at all. Case managers sometimes reach a point where arrest and jail seem like the best choices for certain clients. But jail is a terrible place for someone with mental illness. It is crowded, loud and filled with people who behave badly. Getting a good night's sleep in jail is not easy. Getting medications or treatment is slow and difficult. For the person who is paranoid or hearing voices, jail can seem like torture. It is best to do whatever you can to keep the person out of jail unless he or she commits a serious crime.

The key is planning and communication. Developing and updating a *mental health crisis plan* is the first step. The second step is to use good *communication skills* with clients who are in a mental health crisis.

Mental Health Crisis Plan

A crisis plan helps the person with mental illness document treatment preferences and arrangements to be followed in case he or she cannot make good decisions due to a mental health crisis. A mental health crisis is where the person may be dangerous to himself/herself or others, or may become gravely disabled to the point where safety is an issue. Planning is done when the person is feeling well and can make good choices. It is good practice to develop a crisis plan with every case management client, and to update the plan every 6 months, or sooner if significant changes arise in the client's treatment.

A crisis plan is developed *with*, not *for* the person who has mental illness. The person must be involved in developing the plan for it to work. The person may also choose to involve the following people in crisis planning:

- Key family members;
- Close friends;
- Case manager;
- Psychiatrist, therapist or nurse;
- Probation or parole officer.
- A crisis plan includes:
 - Early warning signs: what the person is like when a crisis is beginning;
 - What can be done by the person and others to clear up the crisis before it starts;
 - What help to call if a crisis begins;
 - Name and contact information for the person's psychiatrist and other mental health care providers;
 - Types of medications and other treatments that have worked or not worked in the past; and
 - How to take care of the person's responsibilities, home and possessions if he or she has to go to hospital or jail.
- The client can complete a "living will" or a "durable power of attorney for healthcare" to give a family member the ability to make decisions for a person who is not able to make decisions for himself/herself. The client would need a trusting relationship with the family member in order for these documents to be effective.
- In Tennessee, the client can complete a document called a, "Declaration for Mental Health Treatment," to describe what treatment the consumer wishes in case of a mental health crisis. No lawyer is required to complete this document. For a copy of the form contact the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities: (615)532-6767 or download it from the TDMHDD website: http://test.state.tn.us/mental/t33/DHMT_FORM.pdf .

When developing a crisis plan with a client who has been arrested in the past, consider a contingency plan to include:

- Who the client wants the case manager to talk to on his/her behalf;
- Where the medications are kept in the person's home;
- How to get the medications to the jail;
- Who in their family to notify to take care of their personal business;
- A neighbor to take care of pets;
- If they have a family attorney, contact information;
- A contact at the public defender's office or jail who would know pertinent information related to past cases.

A crisis plan cannot be enforced in court if someone does not do what it says, but it will help everyone follow the person's wishes as much as possible.

Communication

Good communication skills are essential when a client is at risk of a mental health crisis. The tendency is to attempt to direct individuals toward a more sensible plan of action, but empathetic listening is the *most important* communication tool. The case manager who takes the time to listen to the client, and who uses open questions and paraphrases to find out how the client perceives his or her situation, will accomplish the following:

- Allow the client to vent emotion in an atmosphere of acceptance and validation;
- Allow the client to calm down after venting;
- Gather information on the client's perception of his or her situation, which may be different from objective facts;
 - Gather information on what the client perceives to be occurring; and
 - Help the client verbalize his or her emotional response;
- After the case manager has a thorough understanding of what the client perceives, the case manager can help the client explore the disconnect between objective facts and his or her perception;
- When the situation has been clarified and the client is calm, the case manager should work with the client to develop a mutually agreeable plan of action.

Effective Response when the client is in crisis:

- A person in crisis wants to be heard. Some of the problem will clear up if you take the time to listen;
- A person in crisis is often confused. He or she may not make good choices. Listen to what he/she is saying and help him/her consider what will happen if unwise choices are made. DO NOT criticize or scold. That will only make things worse;
- A person in crisis may be hallucinating or delusional. Listen for the feelings that go along with what he or she says and ask about them. Do not either agree or disagree with what the person sees, hears or believes;
- If you think the person is at immediate risk of hurting him/herself, or others call crisis response services, or follow agency procedures;
- If you are not able to contain the situation, call for assistance from other case managers at your agency, or follow agency procedures;
- If the crisis team is not able to come soon, and you deem that the person *does not* pose a risk to self or others, transport the client to the local emergency room or assist the client in getting transportation to a local facility;
- If the crisis team is not able to come immediately and you determine the person *does* pose a risk to the safety of self or others, call the police. Tell the police that person has a psychiatric diagnosis, is in mental health treatment, and the crisis team has been called. Remain with the person after law enforcement officers arrive. You can be vital to linking the person to services that will divert him or her from jail.

Law Enforcement

There are two types of law enforcement officers that come to the scene of a crime. Cities have a police force while counties have sheriff's officers. Some cities have specially trained police officers who answer calls where the offender or the victim is reported to have mental illness.

When Law Enforcement Officers Come

If law enforcement officers arrive, and even if they have the offender in handcuffs, you can still help. Police can decide who to arrest, who to take to the hospital and who to ignore.

Common reasons for arrest:

- The offender is a danger to him/herself or someone else;
- The offender has damaged property;
- The offender is suspected of carrying illegal drugs or weapons;
- The offender is drunk;
- The offender is trespassing.

If the offender poses risk of harm to self or others due to mental illness, but has not committed a serious crime, officers can take the client to a hospital emergency room or mental health assessment facility. At most of these places officers must wait with the offender until assessment is done. Because assessments take so long:

- Officers often will not arrest someone if there is a good reason not to;
- If the offender is arrested, officers will probably take the person to the county jail or the police station to be booked.

Effective Response when law enforcement comes on the scene:

- If you have to call law enforcement, let them know that the offender has mental illness. The officers may be able to bring special help to the scene of the crime;
- Make sure the client gives the correct name and identifying information to officers;
- If there is an opportunity, tell law enforcement officers about strategies that have worked in the past such as giving the client some time to cool down;
- Unless a serious crime has been committed, offer alternatives to arrest that would provide treatment to the individual, such as:
 - Transportation to the emergency room;
 - Transportation to the mental health agency;
 - Contacting a family member or caregiver; or
 - Arranging respite care;
- Tell officers if you can help the offender get to a treatment facility. They may not arrest the offender if you can offer transportation and/or assistance arranging services.
- You can ask the police to transport the individual to a treatment facility if you do not feel safe doing so. The officer is not required to transport the individual but some will.
- If you have the opportunity to talk to the client and it looks like arrest is probable:
 - Encourage the client to comply with officers,
 - Explain to the client what is about to happen, and how the case manager can assist,
 - Instruct the client not to discuss any other crime or illegal activity,

Arrest

The arrested individual is taken into legal custody by law enforcement officers. After arrest, officers can search the person. If evidence of any other crime emerges, such as drugs or stolen goods, those crimes will be added to the charges. If the offender causes problems while being arrested, “resisting arrest” may be added to the charges.

Effective Response when the offender has been arrested:

- To find out where the person will be detained get information on the arrest from the court clerk, district attorney or public defenders office. Obtain:
 - The name of the arresting officer; and
 - The warrant number;
- Smaller counties usually have only one jail, but cities have a number of detention facilities;
- Find out if there are pre-trial services in the county. Contact Pre-Trial Services immediately to inform them that the offender has a mental illness and is a client at your agency. Give information on any other resources and services that are available to the client;
- If there is no pre-trial service, find out the location, date and time of the first court appearance where bail and bond is set;
- For contact information on holding facilities and other useful resources, see the Resources Section of this book.

The arrested person will be charged with a misdemeanor or a felony.

- A misdemeanor is a less serious crime that carries a sentence of no more than 11 months and 29 days. If the defendant is found guilty of a misdemeanor he or she will serve time in a county jail, be released on probation and/or pay a fine.
- A felony is a serious criminal charge that carries a sentence of a year or more. If the defendant is found guilty of a felony, he or she will serve time, depending on the length of the sentence, either at a county jail, workhouse or state prison.
- Each type of charge, whether misdemeanor or felony, has a maximum sentence.

Even if the defendant is found not guilty of the crime, he/she may spend quite a bit of time in jail while the courts decide what to do. Why are you trying to keep the defendant out of jail? You might think it would be a good idea for the defendant to spend time in a place with “three hots and a cot”, but you would be wrong.

- People with mental illness spend longer in jail than other people for the same charges;
- Jails are not set up to provide treatment. It can be difficult to get medications or treatment of any kind while in jail;
- Jails are noisy and crowded. It is hard to get a good night’s sleep, which is so important for a person who is trying to recover from a mental health crisis.
- Other inmates and even jail staff can be cruel to a person with mental illness.
- There is no promise that the defendant will get mental health services upon release.
- Bottom line: it is important to keep the defendant out of jail if you can.

Arrest Warrants

An arrest warrant is a written order from a judge. Not every arrest involves a warrant. It may be that an officer observes a crime and arrests the offender on the spot. Warrants start the criminal process and are used to bring the defendant to court.

An arrest warrant may be issued if the defendant:

- Does not appear at a required court hearing;
- Does not pay a fine;
- Does not do community service ordered by the court;
- Does not do what is required for probation, parole or community corrections;
- Breaks the law in some other way.

If the defendant does not clear up a warrant s/he may have to go to jail. The speed with which the police follow up on a warrant depends on the seriousness of the offense. There may be officers at the defendant's door that evening if the defendant misses a court date or violates probation. For a fine, it may be a few weeks or longer. Even if the officers do not come, a warrant does not go away. It is important to clear up a warrant because:

- If officers ever pick up the defendant for any reason, the warrant will be held against him or her.
- Social Security checks up on warrants. The defendant may get a letter stating that his or her check will be cut off because the defendant is a "fugitive" from the law.
- It is stressful for the defendant to have a warrant hanging over his/her head. Stress affects mental health.

How to help the client clear up a warrant:

- Accompany the client to the court that issued the warrant. Help the client formulate how to apologize and give good reasons if they exist;
- Help the client consider what might need to be done to correct the rule that was broken.

Those who go back to the court on their own may get in less trouble. If the defendant has a good excuse and the warrant was issued only a day or two ago, the defendant may not be in any more trouble. If there is no good excuse, the defendant will be in more trouble than before the warrant was issued. That could mean:

- Paying more fines or higher bail;
- Getting a longer probation sentence;
- Going to jail or prison.

Effective Response when an arrest warrant has been issued:

- Make sure there really is a warrant. Call the general sessions court clerk. You will not have to tell them where the defendant is, just that he or she plans to come in and clear up the warrant. If the warrant is for violation of probation or parole, call the probation or parole officer.
- Contact the defense attorney if the defendant has one. The attorney may be able to help the defendant clear up the warrant. Let the attorney know if there is a good reason why the person was not able to fulfill conditions and whether you can go to court with the person.
- Find out when and where the defendant should appear. Make sure you get the right courthouse or office. Get directions or bus information and ask for directions once inside the courthouse.
- If the client does not have an attorney, tell the client to go to the public defender's office and apply for one;
- Get someone to go to court with the client. It could be a family member or friend. If no one else is available, it would be good preventive practice to accompany the client yourself. Get to the courthouse a little early; go through security.
 - Explain that you are there to clear up a warrant and ask where to go.

- If the defense attorney cannot meet you, ask the court clerk for an attorney who can “stand up” on the case when it is called;
- Help the defendant explain the situation to the attorney;
- Prepare for a long wait;
- Remember that being there as an advocate may make the difference between jail and a second chance;
- Bring the person’s medication and treatment information with you in case the person is detained.
- Go with the defendant to the probation/ parole office. Advocate for the defendant, letting the officer know about good reason for the person not meeting conditions of probation or parole such as hospitalization, confusion due to mental illness, poverty, etc. This is another situation where having an advocate makes a big difference.

Booking

If the defendant is taken into custody, the next step is “booking” where information is obtained for the court and a decision is made whether to keep the defendant in jail until the first court appearance or release him or her with instructions to appear at a later date. Some districts in Tennessee have a “night court” where this decision is made, while other districts use the police station or the sheriff’s department. During the booking process, the defendant will spend a lot of time waiting in a noisy, uncomfortable place.

Effective Response when the defendant who has been taken into custody:

- Call the Sheriff’s Office to find out where the defendant is held. If it takes several calls, keep on trying;
- Go to the booking facility or at least call;
- Comfort the defendant and let him or her know you are there to help;
- Help the defendant give true, clear information to the booking officer;
- If the client is booked and released on bond, find out if the client has transportation and can get to the court date. If not, try to find a family member to help. Make sure the family member has all of the correct information about the date, time and place of the hearing. Help the client get there yourself if no one else is available.
- Ask the client if he or she would like you to contact the defense attorney or if he or she wants to do it. The sooner the defense attorney gets word about the case, the better.

Jail: Custody Before the First Court Hearing

If the defendant has been charged with a serious crime or there are other reasons to think he or she needs to be in jail until the first court date, the defendant will be jailed.

Effective Response when the defendant is detained in jail:

- Find out what the rules are about visiting the defendant;
- Visit the client to get him or her to sign appropriate “Consents to Release Information”. Getting a signed release from the client is always best practice, although information identifying the person as mentally ill, treatment providers, diagnosis and medications are not restricted under Title 33 and HIPAA if the person is incarcerated.
- Contact jail staff and tell them that the individual has mental illness and is in mental health treatment at your agency. Inform them of other treatment providers the person may have for issues such as substance abuse treatment.
- Find out whether you can bring the defendant’s medications;
- Give a list of the defendant’s current medications to the jail staff;
- If there is a unit in the jail for inmates who need extra medical care, ask that the client be placed there;

- Let the jail staff know if the defendant is currently suicidal;
- Encourage family members to call and tell the jail any significant risks based on treatment history, such medical issues or serious suicidal attempts. That is not information you can give as a provider, but the family can.

Bail Bond

If the defendant is charged with a less serious crime, and has enough support in the community, and is not considered a risk to run away, he or she may be released on bond. Bond is an amount of money paid in order to make sure the defendant comes back on the court date. This is called “posting bond”. If the bond is too high, the defense lawyer can file a motion asking that the amount be lowered. If the defendant has more than one bond, make sure the lawyer knows about all of them so the motions can all be filed at once.

In deciding the amount of bond, the Court will look at:

- The type of crime;
- Evidence against the defendant;
- Criminal record;
- If the defendant has failed to appear in court before;
- How long the defendant has lived in the area;
- Family and friends in the area;
- Employment, and
- How long the defendant has had that job.

How the bond is posted is up to the defendant. Types of Bond:

- **Cash Bonds:**
The defendant or someone else puts up the entire amount. The money will be returned if a receipt is turned into the Criminal Court at the end of the case. If you or anyone besides the defendant posts a cash bond, be sure that the receipt is paid to the person who actually paid the money, not the defendant. If the receipt is made out to the defendant, the fines and court costs will be taken out of the bond money before any money is refunded.
- **Bonding Company:**
Generally, bonding companies will charge 10% of the bond plus \$25.00. So if the bond is \$1,000.00, the bonding company will charge \$125.00. This money is not refundable. Some bond companies will allow the defendant to pay some of the fee weekly until it is all paid.
- **Property Bonds:**
To use a property bond the defendant must own land without a mortgage or lien on the property. The property title can be taken to the court clerk’s office and they will allow the defendant to make bond. If the defendant does not show up in court, he or she loses the property.

OR:

- **Pre-Trial Release:** *(only available in some counties)*
The only type of release where the defendant is not required to post money or property. If there is no criminal record and several other conditions are met a pre-trial counselor may be assigned and the defendant will be released from jail and required to report once a week. Pre-trial release is not often granted.

Effective Response when the defendant is released on bond or is in pre-trial services:

- Make sure the client notifies the bonding company or pre-trial services of his/her address, telephone, changes in employment or any other pertinent information.

General Sessions Court

General Sessions Court is the first court that cases go to in the criminal justice system. Misdemeanors go no further than General Sessions Court. Felonies will be examined to see if they should be reduced to misdemeanors or if other preparations need to be made to get the case ready for Circuit or Criminal Court. For instance, the prosecutor or defense may need to gather more evidence, may need to subpoena witnesses, or may need to order a psychiatric evaluation.

Getting a Defense Attorney

If the defendant does not yet have a defense attorney he or she may need your help to get one as soon as possible. Everyone has a right to represent him/herself in court, but it is a better idea to hire an attorney. In court, many people are seen and most are not given much time. Your job as an advocate is to get the court to pay attention to the defendant's special needs. The defense attorney can do that.

- The defense attorney is the only person in the court whose job it is to look out for the needs and rights of the defendant.
- You will not be able to talk to the judge, except maybe briefly in the courtroom and then only to respond to questions.

Bottom line: If you have information that you think will help the case, *always* go through the defense attorney.

You should contact the attorney:

- To get information about the case:
 - The police and prosecutor's version of what happened;
 - What the defendant would like to do (plead guilty, go to trial, get a disposition that includes mandatory drug or alcohol treatment); and
 - What the lawyer thinks is likely to happen with the case.
- To give needed information:
 - The defendant's psychiatric problems and history;
 - Contact information for family and mental health providers;
 - Resources available to the defendant to help him or her stay stable and safe; and
 - Names and addresses of any witnesses.
- To get the best possible deal for the defendant in court.

Note: The defense attorney does not have to talk to you. The attorney may talk to you if he or she thinks you can help the defendant's case.

Effective Response: helping the defendant get legal counsel:

- If the person is released on bond, help the defendant hire a lawyer. If the defendant has a family lawyer, help the defendant make the phone call;
- If he or she cannot afford to hire a lawyer, contact the court to get a public defender or court appointed counsel. The defendant has a right to an attorney;
- With permission from the defendant, meet with the defendant and the defense attorney to help supply details of the case;
- Make sure the defense attorney understands what sort of assistance you can and cannot give to help the person stay out of trouble in the community;
- Educate the defense counsel about what is appropriate and possible for the client and what is available in the community;
- It is not your role to decide anything about the case, but to offer alternatives for consideration by the court.

Court Appointed Attorneys

Clients who cannot afford to pay are still entitled to legal counsel. The court will appoint a defense attorney. Tennessee has two kinds of court-appointed attorneys, public defenders and court appointed counsel.

- Public defender: Works in the county for people who cannot afford to pay.
- Appointed counsel: a lawyer in private practice who is assigned by the court to defend a person who cannot afford to pay. Some of these lawyers may spend all of their time doing criminal defense, or they may only take a few cases.

Caution: The attorney is defending the defendant's *legal* rights. He or she may not do what you think is best. Most attorneys who defend poor people are *very* busy. Your job as an advocate is to convince the attorney that this is a special case and to help put together a plan for keeping the defendant stable and out of trouble. Sometimes you will find it difficult to work with the defense attorney because he or she:

- May not return your phone calls;
- May not listen to what you have to say;
- May interrupt you and seem rude;
- May not agree with what you think is best;
- May be unwilling to talk with you at all.

Can the client fire a free attorney?

Yes and no. If the defendant wants a new attorney, he or she can ask the judge to "relieve" the lawyer and appoint a different one. The defendant would have to:

- Tell the current attorney that he or she wants a change of attorney and the reasons why;
- The lawyer must make the request of the judge at the next court date;
- Sometimes the judge will grant the request and sometimes not. The judge may think:
 - The lawyer is doing a good job, or
 - The case has gone too far to switch, or
 - The defendant has made this request before and is not being reasonable.

If you, as an advocate, are unhappy with the lawyer but the defendant is satisfied, there is nothing you can do. The lawyer works for the defendant, not for you or for the family. Even if the family is footing the bill, the lawyer's only responsibility is to represent the defendant.

Appearing in Court

Any court appearance can be confusing. If the defendant does not appear, the judge may issue an arrest warrant. Then he or she will go to jail. If the defendant does not behave well, he or she may be found in contempt of court, which may add another charge and more jail time.

Effective Response to help the defendant appear in court:

- If you get a chance, help the defendant understand what is going on and how to behave;
- If possible accompany the client to court, or arrange for a family member or friend to accompany the person;
- The defendant must:
 - Go to court at the correct date and time unless the defense attorney says not to appear;
 - Allow extra time to find the right building and court room;
 - Arrive early in case the attorney needs to discuss the case;
 - If not able to appear for good reason or if late, notify the defense attorney and the bondsman;
 - Only speak in court if asked by the defense attorney, the prosecutor or the judge;
 - Only answer the questions that are asked; no more, no less;

- Address the judge as “your honor”; and
- Speak politely, not in anger;
- Urge the defendant to dress neatly and appropriately, no revealing or sloppy clothes.
- If the defense attorney asks you to speak in court, tell the attorney in advance what you would say. The attorney may or may not decide to have you speak.

The Legal Process for Misdemeanors: First Court Hearing

The misdemeanor process takes place in a General Sessions Court. The defendant must go before a judge within 72 hours of arrest. At this first hearing, in some districts referred to as an “arraignment,” the judge tells the defendant what charges have been brought against him or her and makes a decision about whether the defendant can be released on bond or must be sent to jail. The judge decides whether there is probable cause to believe that: the crime has been committed, and the defendant committed the crime.

- If the judge decides there is not enough probable cause, the case will be dismissed;
- If the judge decides there is probable cause, a trial will be set in General Sessions Court.

Trial for Misdemeanor Charges

Most misdemeanor trials are ‘bench trials’ where decisions are made by a judge and there is no jury. In some limited cases there may be a jury trial for a misdemeanor charge. The defendant must have an attorney. If he or she cannot afford to pay, the court will appoint a defense attorney. The defendant may or may not be asked to testify (speak in court) by the defense attorney.

This is the usual process for a bench trial:

- The charges are read;
- The defense attorney responds to the charges and enters a plea;
- The district attorney gives an account of the crime and the events surrounding it;
- The prosecuting attorney (usually the district attorney or ‘DA’) presents evidence that the defendant should be found guilty;
- The defense attorney presents evidence that the defendant should be found not guilty;
- Each attorney responds to the other’s points;
- The judge makes a decision.

The judge may decide the case. This is called a “disposition.” The defendant may be found:

- Not guilty, acquitted of the crime and the case is closed,
- Guilty, and given a sentence, such as:
 - A fine;
 - Community service;
 - Jail time;
 - Probation;
 - A combination of the above.

Legal Process for Felonies: First Court Hearing

As with misdemeanors, the defendant must go before a judge within 72 hours of arrest. At the first hearing, the judge notifies the defendant of his or her charges, and decides whether the defendant can be released on bond or must go to jail. The defendant does not testify at the first hearing.

Preliminary Hearing

At this hearing, the judge will look at whether the case should be settled, the bond should be reduced, the charge should be reduced to a misdemeanor or if the case should keep going to the next level. The defendant will not be allowed to testify at the preliminary hearing. In serious cases, the state will demand a preliminary hearing and there will not be a chance to settle the case or reduce the bond. In that case, the only factors the judge will examine are if there is “probable cause” to believe:

- That the crime was committed,
- That the defendant charged was the one who committed the crime.

Decisions about “probable cause” can be made at several points in the legal process, but each time there must be stronger evidence for the process to continue. If the judge decides there is probable cause, the case will be sent, or “bound over” to the Grand Jury.

Possible next steps include:

- Plea bargain (or plea agreement): case settled. The district attorney agrees to reduce the charge, or dismiss some or all charges, or recommend a sentence in return for a plea of guilty or “nolo contendere” (no contest).
- Case dismissed: Cases can be dismissed for a number of reasons:
 - People who were told to come did not appear to testify. The case may be dismissed this point. Otherwise there may be a “continuance” if the judge deems that the attorneys can get the people to come at a later date.
 - There is not enough evidence. The judge may decide that there isn't enough information to show that the defendant committed the crime. The case may be closed when it is dismissed.
 - The charges are “retired”. This means that the charge will not be pursued actively. The defendant will not face charges at this time but charges can be brought up again if the defendant commits a new crime.

There are factors that make the charge more complicated. Two examples:

- A person who is mentally ill and a danger to self/others may be sent for involuntary commitment to a psychiatric hospital. After the defendant has stabilized, the defendant will return to court unless the charges have been dropped.
- The court may order an evaluation for competence to stand trial or for use of the “not guilty by reason of insanity (NGRI)” defense. At that point, a “forensic evaluation” will be court-ordered.
- Apart from NGRI cases, a forensic evaluation may be ordered if the attorney or the judge feel it is necessary.

At the end of the preliminary hearing, several things may happen:

- The judge may decide there is not enough “probable cause.” Either there is not enough evidence that the crime has been committed or that this defendant committed the crime. The charges are dismissed and the case is closed.
- The case may be “bound over to the Grand Jury”.
- There may be an “information agreement”, a written contract between the defendant and the district attorney that the defendant will plead guilty to the charge in Criminal or Circuit Court, and the DA will offer an agreed-on sentence. If there is an information agreement, the case will skip the Grand Jury and will go directly to Criminal or Circuit Court.

Bound Over to Grand Jury

If the case is “bound over” the defendant may:

- Be released either with or without bail, and told to come back for another court hearing;
 - The defendant has to come back for the next court date or be arrested and jailed. If that happens, the court will be more strict with the rest of the case; or
- Be detained in jail pending the next hearing.

There are several things to think about.

- It takes months or even years for a case to get through Circuit or Criminal Court;
- Meanwhile the defendant may sit in jail;
- In jail, the defendant may not get treatment or the right medications;
- The defendant may lose his/her housing or job during that time;
- If the defendant is found guilty, the case will go on the criminal record anyway; and
- If the defendant does not have a public defender the whole process will cost a lot of money.

Effective Response to help the defendant decide what to do:

- Listen to the defendant’s plans for the case;
- Help the defendant think about what might happen if the case goes to trial;
- Guard information from the client very carefully because anything that is said to *anyone* else can affect the case,
- Document appropriately in your case records. Use neutral, objective language. Remember that statements are merely allegations, not fact, unless the court has made a decision; and
- Help the defendant write down questions for the attorney.

Grand Jury

The Grand Jury is a group of thirteen people that are chosen by the government to look at all of the current criminal cases. The Grand Jury only decides “probable cause”:

- Was the crime committed?
- Is it likely that this person is guilty?

Three ways cases can get to the Grand Jury are:

- Bound over from a preliminary hearing;
- Sealed indictment; and
- Direct presentment.

The Grand Jury just looks at the evidence presented by the prosecution. There are no witnesses. Neither the defendant nor the defense attorney appears. When bound over, the case can only go to Criminal or Circuit Court after the Grand Jury returns a decision, which can take a long time. The decision may be:

- No true bill: There is not enough reason for the case to go forward; or
- Indictment: There is probable cause to believe the defendant is guilty.

Circuit or Criminal Court

Felonies are tried in Criminal or Circuit Court. Urban areas have a Criminal Court while in most other areas criminal cases are heard in Circuit Court. If the case goes to Criminal or Circuit Court, much of what happened in General Sessions Court is repeated.

Sealed Indictment

If the defendant is charged with a serious crime and there is a reason to take the case straight to Criminal or Circuit Court, the charge may be placed in a “sealed indictment”. In those cases all of the evidence is gathered and the case goes to the Grand Jury with no preliminary hearing. Sealed indictments are frequently used for drug cases.

Direct Presentment

Direct presentment is when the prosecutor goes directly to the Grand Jury through a sealed indictment. If a General Sessions judge dismisses a case, at the first hearing, the prosecutor may seek a direct presentment.

Arraignment

If the defendant is indicted by the Grand Jury, he or she must appear before the Criminal or Circuit Court to hear the charges and enter a plea. At that point a public defender or court appointed attorney is assigned if the defendant does not already have one.

Preparing the Case

It will take several weeks for the case to get from the arraignment to the settlement docket.

During that time, the defense attorney may do some of the following:

- Obtain a copy of the indictment from the court;
- Enter a plea of “not guilty” for the defendant;
- File a “discovery motion” to get witness lists, statements, reports and other information;
- Get information about the case from the defendant; file motions to get evidence and talk to witnesses. The attorney needs to know as much as possible about the case to prepare a good defense. Extra time spent getting the case ready may save the defendant years in jail.
- Discuss with the defendant:
 - The charges;
 - All possible defenses;
 - Strengths and weaknesses of the case;
 - What the defendant will testify at the trial, or whether to testify at all;
 - Chances of success if the case goes to trial;
 - Possible punishments for the crime with which the defendant is charged.
- Talk to the defendant and the district attorney to see if they can agree on a settlement. Settlement agreements can be negotiated *only* if the defendant wants it.

Effective Response as the defendant prepares for trial:

- Encourage the defendant to be completely honest with the defense attorney;
- Encourage the defendant to sign a consent to release information to enable you to talk with the defense attorney about the client’s mental illness and treatment,
- If the consent has been signed, provide information requested by the defense attorney.

Settlement Docket or Settlement Day *(only in some counties)*

This is a court appearance where the defense and prosecuting attorneys try to settle the case to keep it from going to trial. The defendant has a final chance to enter a plea agreement (or plea bargain), for a lighter sentence. For example, the DA may offer to recommend a split sentence: some time behind bars and some on probation or parole. The defense attorney will have worked out the plea agreement with the defendant and the DA before the case gets to the Settlement Docket or Settlement Day. The defense attorney can offer advice, but the decision of whether to accept a plea bargain must be made by the defendant. If no settlement is reached, the case goes to trial.

Continuance

If the case is not ready for trial, it may get a “continuance” if:

- More evidence is needed;
- People who are needed are not there, such as the victim or victim’s family.

Once it is ready, the case will either go back to the Settlement Docket or on to trial.

Trial

The diagram on the next page shows the jury trial process. The defense attorney will work with the defendant to determine:

- Whether the defendant will testify. The defendant can, but does not have to speak in his/her own defense at the trial;
- What questions the DA and the defense attorney might ask and how to answer;
- Which witnesses to call and what evidence to present.

The defense attorney and the defendant must be ready for the trial on the date it is set even though it might not be tried on that date. The defense may not know until court starts that the case will not be tried that day.

Appeals

Even after the judge has made a decision, it could be changed later if new information comes out or if there were errors in the trial process. If that happens, the defense attorney files a motion to appeal the decision and another hearing or trial is set. An appeal will only help if the judge did not follow the law or the person was prevented from exercising his or her rights. Because the Court of Appeal just reviews existing evidence, the defendant will not appear. If there is new evidence, the case will go back to trial.

Appeals can be filed on a number of things during the legal process, including:

- To challenge a conviction of guilty;
- To change or shorten a sentence; and
- To get a new trial.

The Jury Trial Process	What Is Happening	Court Action	Prosecutor Action	Defense Attorney Action
Jury Selection	A group of 12 people from the community are chosen to decide whether the defendant committed the crime.	Asks jurors about their ability to sit on a jury.	Asks questions. May strike someone from the jury.	Asks questions. May strike someone from the jury.
Reading of Indictment	The charges against the defendant are read by the court clerk			
Defendant Enters Plea	The defense attorney responds to the charges and enters a plea.			Responds to the charges with a plea of "not guilty"
Opening Statements	The prosecutor and the defense each tell their account of events		Makes a statement about what they can prove.	Makes a statement about what they can prove.
State's Proof	The prosecutor presents the state's case that the defendant should be found guilty.	Judge rules on defense objections	Puts on witnesses and presents evidence of guilt.	Cross-examines witnesses and objects to evidence
Motion for Acquittal	The defense attorney asks that the defendant be found not guilty because there is not enough evidence.	Judge rules on the motion and can acquit.		Asks that the defendant be acquitted.
Defense Proof	The defense attorney presents the reasons why the defendant should be found not guilty.	Judge rules on prosecutor objections	Cross-examines witnesses and objects to evidence	Puts on witnesses and presents evidence of innocence.
Prosecution's Rebuttal	The prosecutor gives reasons why the defense has not proven that the defendant is not guilty.		Puts on witnesses and presents evidence to rebut the defense proof.	Cross-examines witnesses and objects to evidence
Closing Argument	Each side says what they think they have proven during the trial.		Makes a statement of what was proven.	Makes a statement of what was proven.
Jury Instructions	All jurors must agree on whether the defendant is innocent or guilty. If even one disagrees, a mistrial is declared. Another trial is set.	Judge instructs jury to decide innocence or guilt.		
Deliberation	Jury meets privately to decide.			
Decision	Jury announces decision of not guilty, guilty or hung jury	Judge dismisses case, sets sentencing hearing or re-trial.	If the case is dismissed re-tried, will keep gathering evidence.	If defendant is convicted, can file an appeal to a higher court.

Evaluations for People with Mental Illness

Forensic Evaluation

Forensic evaluation is not a short-cut to mental health treatment. It is the best-known type of court-ordered evaluation when the defendant has a mental illness. Judges and attorneys often go for a forensic evaluation when another type would be better. There are two good reasons to order a forensic evaluation. They are as follows:

- To find out if the defendant's current mental illness prevents him/her from being "competent to stand trial." The legal term, "competent", does not mean that the defendant is making good decisions about his or her life. A person is "competent to stand trial" if he/she has:
 - The ability to cooperate with his/her attorney in his/her own defense;
 - An awareness and understanding of the proceedings; and,
 - An understanding of the consequences of the proceedings.
- To find out if the defendant was "not guilty by reason of insanity" (NGRI). To be found NGRI, two things have to be true:
 - The defendant must be found to have a severe mental disease or defect at the time of the crime; AND
 - Because of severe mental disease or defect, the defendant did not appreciate the "nature or wrongfulness" of the crime;

NGRI is hard to prove. If a person is found NGRI, he or she will be evaluated for treatment in a state psychiatric institute for 60 – 90 days. After that time in the hospital, the defendant may be:

- Committed indefinitely to the state hospital,
- Released to seek out-patient treatment,
- Released on "mandatory outpatient treatment" (MOT). That means the defendant must comply with a treatment plan or risk being arrested and jailed.

There is a long waiting list for forensic evaluations, which means that the defendant sits in jail until his or her turn comes up. Even then, it can take 30 – 90 days for the evaluation to be completed after it has started. Bottom line: forensic evaluation is only good for its intended purpose.

Mental Health Treatment

If the judge or the attorneys want to find out if someone has a mental illness and get him or her in treatment, there are several things they can do:

- Get a "consent to release information" from the defendant to allow the defense attorney to contact the defendant's mental health agency, psychiatrist, or other mental health professionals. With a consent to release, the court can get information about:
 - Diagnosis;
 - Medications and other treatment;
 - Whether the defendant was stable when taking medications as prescribed; and
 - Reasons why the defendant might not be in treatment any more.
- The defense attorney can ask the court to require the defendant to comply with treatment as a condition of probation. If the defendant is sentenced to jail or prison, the court can give the treatment information to the correctional medical staff.
- If the defendant has mental health treatment providers but is not taking medications as prescribed or not going to treatment, *and* if he or she breaks the law, the court can require participation in treatment as a condition of probation or parole.
- If the defendant seems to present risk of physical harm to self or others because of mental illness, s/he can be evaluated for commitment by the crisis team serving the area.
- If the person has been convicted and is in the custody of the Tennessee Department of Corrections, the crisis team can evaluate, but can only make recommendations about treatment needs. They cannot provide referral to a hospital or sign commitment papers;

- To be committed to a hospital against his or her will, two mental health professionals have to certify that the defendant:
 - Has a mental illness; and
 - Poses immediate, substantial likelihood of serious harm to self or others; and
 - Needs care, training and/or treatment; and
 - All less drastic placements will not meet the needs of the person.
- Most people are not committed for a long period of time, but they may get stabilized on medications and connected to services when they are released.

Effective Response when the defendant needs mental health treatment:

- Give the defense attorney contact information for the defendant's mental health providers;
- Give the attorney the "consent to release information" form used by the agency or other treating professional;
- Highlight the importance of continuing the defendant's medication;
- Ask for a criminal justice/ mental health liaison. Not all jails have one. If there is a liaison in the jail, he or she will be able to help the defendant get assessment, treatment and will connect him or her to supports and services upon release;
- Arrange for an evaluation for mental health treatment at your agency.
- If the person is not in jail, help him or her sign up for TennCare;
- If the defendant is seriously threatening to self or others, access appropriate treatment including crisis services.

Sentences

Pre-Sentencing Investigation

The judge may order a pre-sentence investigation (PSI):

- If the defendant is to be sentenced because of a guilty or nolo contendere plea, or
- Was convicted (found guilty) at a trial.

A probation officer will gather information. The judge will decide what sentence to give the defendant.

The PSI report will include:

- A statement of the facts of the case;
- The defendant's criminal record;
- Family background;
- Employment history;
- A mental health assessment (optional); and
- A statement from the defendant (optional).

Sentencing Hearing

At the sentencing hearing the judge will look at the PSI report and hear other testimony. The defendant and defense attorney should prepare carefully for the sentencing hearing by discussing who should testify on behalf of the defendant and what they should say. A sentence is what the judge requires the defendant to do to make up for the crime. Sentences can involve:

- Paying a fine;
- Serving time on probation or community corrections;
- Serving time in a jail or prison;
- Serving a "split sentence", some time behind bars and some on probation.

Effective Response as the defendant prepares for the sentencing hearing:

- Tell the defense attorney about:
 - Treatment or training programs the defendant has completed;
 - Other treatment programs the defendant would be eligible for if not incarcerated;
 - People who can vouch for the defendant;
 - Who depends on the defendant (sick or aging parents, dependent children, etc.);
 - History of compliance with mental health treatment, history of violence, etc.
- Encourage the defendant to follow the advice of the defense attorney.

Probation

Probation is a sentence. It is a privilege, not a right. A probationer must live by certain rules to stay out of jail. Time served on probation starts when the defendant is released from jail. When a defendant is placed on probation, the judge may make several conditions:

- Report regularly to the probation officer;
- Ask permission from the probation officer before changing address, job, or traveling out of state;
- Go to mental health, alcohol or drug treatment;
- Get a G.E.D.;
- Keep a full-time job;
- Pay back money to the victims (called "restitution"); and
- Do Not commit any more crimes.

People on probation must pay \$35.00 per month, or an amount set by the judge, to the probation officer. If the defendant does not obey the rules of probation, a hearing will be held, and the judge may "revoke" the probation and send the defendant to serve the whole sentence in jail.

Effective Response with probation, community corrections and parole:

- Talk to the defendant and the defense attorney about requesting probation with a requirement to participate in mental health and/or substance abuse treatment;
- Discuss conditions that would be appropriate and possible for the defendant, and resources that would, or would not, be available in the community;
- Make contact with the probation or parole officer *before* there is a problem. Probation and parole officers have high caseloads. Most do not know much about mental illness.
 - Obtain the defendant's permission, then call and introduce yourself;
 - By making contact early:
 - The officer will be more likely to call you if there seems to be a problem;
 - The officer will listen to you if you need to advocate for the defendant later;
 - Give information on the defendant's mental illness and things that are hard for the defendant to do because of mental illness;
 - Give information about the defendant's treatment providers and tell the officer what the programs offer;
 - Tell the officer what you can and cannot do for the defendant. That way the officer will not call you for something you can't help with.
- Educate the probation officer about the person's mental illness, including the symptoms and manifestations of the illness that may occur as time goes on;
- Include the probation officer in the client's crisis plan. Educate the probation officer about early warning signs of an episode such as personal grooming, pace of speech, etc.

Community Corrections

In Tennessee, people who do not qualify for probation may still be sentenced to community corrections to pay back the community for the crime. A community corrections probation officer will develop a sentencing plan for the judge. At the sentencing hearing the judge will give the defendant a length of time during which the plan must be followed. Community Corrections plans can be very stringent. The plan may include:

- Public service work;
- Paying money to the victim, (restitution);
- Reporting to the probation officer every day;
- Going through mental health treatment and/or drug and alcohol treatment;
- Anything else the judge feels will keep the defendant from breaking the law again.

The defendant should discuss community corrections with the defense attorney before applying because the conditions are strict.

Effective Response when a client is offered community corrections:

- Encourage the client to carefully consider whether he or she can meet the very stringent conditions for community corrections;
- Remind the client that violation of any conditions will send him or her back to court. At that point the sentence can be *increased*.

Split Confinement

The judge may sentence the defendant to some jail time and some time on probation. If the defendant violates probation, he or she will be jailed for the rest of the sentence. This is called "putting the sentence into effect."

Effective Response when a client is on split confinement:

- The client's case will probably have to be terminated during incarceration, but make sure the client and the jail have your contact information to prepare for release.

Work Release *(only in some counties)*

If the defendant is employed, misdemeanor time may be served at a Work Release Center where the defendant stays during non-work hours, but can go to work during the day.

- To get work release, the defense attorney will need to request a sentence that allows for 0% work release eligibility, meaning that the defendant can apply immediately.
- If the sentence is less than 120 days, the application will go to the director of the work release program.
- If it is longer than 120 days, the defendant must go before the Work Release Board.

The work release decision usually takes only a few days.

Jail

People who serve time for misdemeanors are sent to county jails or workhouses. The maximum sentence for a misdemeanor is 11 months and 29 days (11/29). A charge will carry a range of sentences with it. If the defendant is incarcerated in jail for 11/29 at 75% the defendant serves that portion sentence. People who have done more serious crimes will serve time in jail until they go to prison. The time served in jail counts toward the prison sentence.

Most jails do not have much mental health treatment.

- Larger jails have staff that assess for mental illness and prescribe medication.
- Small jails may have little or no treatment. If they do have treatment, usually it is only assessment and medication through a community mental health center. It takes awhile to get community treatment for inmates because waiting lists are long and the jail staff has to find the time to take inmates to appointments.
- Some jails have a criminal justice/mental health liaison. This person can help the inmate get services and supports in jail and upon release;
- Some jails have Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) or Narcotics Anonymous (NA) groups and substance abuse counselors. The court may shorten the sentence if the defendant goes to substance abuse treatment while in jail.
- Larger jails may have special cells or a unit where people with medical or mental health needs are housed apart from other inmates. Mentally ill inmates in those units are less likely to be mistreated by other inmates.

Prison

Inmates with sentences of six years or more serve time in one of the state prisons. The defendant may be incarcerated close to home, or may be sent somewhere else in the state. Inmates serving less than six years go to jail.

- How much time the inmate actually serves depends on the crime, the defendant's criminal record and behavior while locked up.
- Those who do not break the rules, and are involved in programs, may shorten their time. Time served in jail while waiting for prison placement can shorten the prison sentence if the defendant behaves well.
- If the defendant gets in trouble in prison, he or she may get a "disciplinary" which means extra time served over and above the sentence.

Prisons are required to have some mental health treatment. Every inmate who comes into a prison is examined for mental health, substance abuse or health problems. At any point, prisoners, family or others, can ask that the inmate be examined to see if there is a need for mental health or substance abuse services.

Mental health treatment in prison:

- If there seems to be a mental health problem, the person will be sent to the prison physician, psychologist or other counselor for testing, diagnosis and treatment.
- The physician may prescribe psychiatric medication to be given by the prison nurse.
- If the inmate is already on medication, the physician may renew the prescription if the medication is on the prison drug list, or may change it. If there is a good reason, like the inmate has tried everything and nothing else worked, the prescription may be continued even if it is not on the prison drug list.
- The prisoner has a right to refuse to take the medication. But if the inmate becomes a serious threat to himself or herself, emergency medications will be ordered through the Department of Corrections with or without the inmate's consent.
- At most prisons, mental health treatment is like it would be at a community mental health center. There is a clinic in the prison where inmates go for treatment.
- At special needs prisons, treatment is similar to a state mental health institute. Special needs prisons are for people with serious mental illness, mental retardation or medical conditions who need special services and would be safer if separated from other inmates.
- If there seems to be a drug or alcohol problem, the inmate will be sent to the substance abuse counselor for drug education, treatment and group work. Substance abuse treatment in prisons is similar to substance abuse treatment in a community agency.

Effective Response when a client is incarcerated:

- Ask the prison medical staff to examine the inmate for mental health or substance abuse problems;
 - With the inmate's permission, tell the prison medical staff what treatment and medication the inmate has been receiving and how well it helped or did not help;
 - Encourage the inmate to go to treatment and take medication as prescribed;
 - Educate the inmate about differences between community treatment and treatment in correctional facilities;
 - If the inmate complains about his or her treatment remember there are two sides to every story. Check it out with the prison mental health staff before you do anything else;
 - Encourage the inmate to get his or her GED or to go to training while in prison. Having more skills will help after release;
 - Educate the facility staff about the importance of release planning. Give the prison staff contact information for your agency and ask them to contact the agency 60 to 90 days before release.
- It is very hard to get set up in the community after release from prison. Landlords, even in public housing, may not rent to a person who has been in prison. Few employers will hire people who have been convicted of felonies. The inmate who has enough support in the community to make it through tough times is much more likely to stay out of prison in the future.

Parole

Parole consists of supervision of someone who has returned to the community after serving part of a felony sentence in prison. Parolees must report to the parole officer and obey court-ordered conditions. If a parolee disobeys any of the conditions, the parole officer can arrest him or her immediately. The parolee will go to jail to await a hearing on whether the rules were violated. If parole was violated, the parolee will be re-incarcerated. Conditions of parole may include:

- Reporting regularly to the parole officer for a set length of time;
- Staying within a certain county or area;
- Staying away from certain people;
- Going to mental health and substance abuse treatment;
- Getting stable housing and work; and
- Not committing crimes.

Conclusion

It can be confusing, frustrating and intimidating to try to get help for clients in the criminal justice system, but your clients need your help. Jail is not a good place for treatment. Continuity of care can and should be maintained for clients in the criminal justice system. Your help is needed to advocate for appropriate community services that would re-direct the client from the criminal justice system, to connect the client with services while incarcerated and to link with community services upon release.

What can we do to de-criminalize mental illness?

People with mental illness do not belong in jail or prison because of their mental illness. It creates additional personal anguish and chaos for clients and their families, and it is a waste of time and money. Many people get incarcerated because of their psychiatric symptoms for lack of community mental health treatment. Everyone who cares about mental health must work together to stop criminalization and demand a real community mental health system, regardless of whether someone they work with has been arrested.

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This book was inspired by two documents:

- Take This Book: a defendant and family handbook provided by the Davidson County Office of the Public Defender; and
- How to Help: when a person with mental illness has been arrested, (2001) by Heather Barr of the Urban Justice Institute and Bob Corliss of NAMI-New York City.

Helpful Websites

Criminal Justice Information:

Directory of TN Sheriffs, Public Defenders & Judges: www.tbi.state.tn.us/CJ_directory

Tennessee Department of Correction: www.state.tn.us/correction
Information about state prisons

Tennessee Criminal Law: www.tncrimlaw.com
Information about legal issues in Tennessee

Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts: <http://www.tsc.state.tn.us>
Information about the Tennessee court system

Tennessee Board of Probation and Parole www2.state.tn.us/bopp

Police:

Chattanooga www.chattanooga.gov/police
Jackson www.jacksontn.com/jackson/police.html
Knoxville www.knoxvillepd.org
Memphis www.memphispolice.org
Nashville www.police.nashville.org

Mental Health Information:

The Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law: www.bazelon.org
Information about mental health law and rights of persons with mental illness

The Consensus Project www.consensusproject.org
Information about bridging gaps between the mental health and criminal justice systems

The Institute of Mental Health Law: www.imhl.com
Information about mental health legislation around the world

Mental Health Association of Middle Tennessee www.ichope.com

National Mental Health Association www.nmha.org
Information about mental health issues

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) www.NAMI.org
Information about mental health issues and treatment

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Tennessee <http://tn.nami.org>

National Association of Rights Protection and Advocacy (NARPA) www.narpa.org
National organization to advocate for civil rights of persons with mental illness

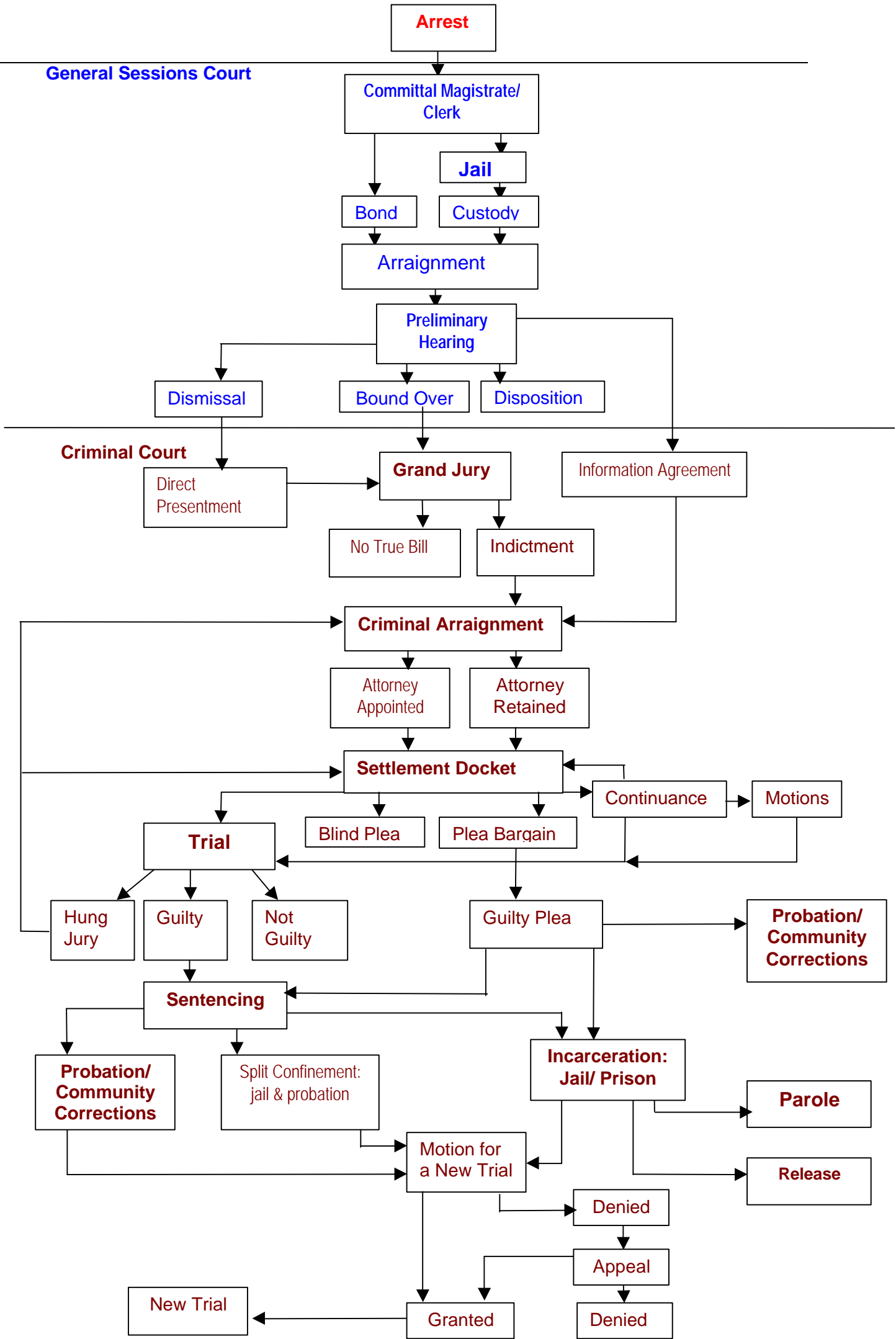
Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) www.samhsa.gov
Information about mental health and substance abuse issues and services

SAMHSA Center for Mental Health Services information site: www.mentalhealth.org

Tennessee Dept. of Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities: www.state.tn.us/mental

Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations: www.tamho.org
Statewide organization of community mental health centers

Criminal Justice System in Tennessee



This diagram shows general information. Systems vary between counties.